

17 NOV 1998
Court-Karpal
KARPAL SINGH APPLIES TO SET ASIDE SUBPOENA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Lawyer Karpal Singh today filed a notice of motion in the High Court here today seeking an order to set aside a subpoena served on him to appear as a prosecution witness at the corruption trial of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar's trial on four counts of corrupt practice resumes on Monday.

In the notice, Karpal Singh said that the subpoena, which is undated, issued by the deputy registrar of the High Court, should be set aside as it is vexatious and an abuse of the court process.

He also stated that he would not be able to adduce any material evidence in the case.

The subpoena, served on him at 11.30am last Friday outside the court, requires him to be present in court from Monday to Dec 12.

Karpal Singh, 58, in his affidavit, said that he was present in court on Friday to obtain Anwar's signature on his (Anwar's) affidavit in support of his application to seek a declaration from the High Court that his dismissal as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister was unconstitutional and invalid.

Anwar has named Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the government as the first and second defendant respectively.

Karpal Singh further stated in his affidavit that the prosecution had never indicated to him that he would be required to testify at Anwar's trial which began on Nov 2.

He said that he was present on the first day of the trial to apply to hold a watching brief for Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, Anwar's adopted brother who is serving a six months' jail term for committing an act of gross indecency by allowing Anwar to sodomise him. (The application was rejected).

No statement had been recorded from him as a prosecution witness, he said.

Karpal Singh said that his presence in court would cause a serious disruption to his duties as a lawyer and Member of Parliament.

Furthermore, he said, he had to be in London on Nov 26 as his son, Ramkarpal Singh, would be admitted to the Gray's Inn as Barrister-at-Law.

Karpal Singh told reporters later that he hoped his application could be heard on Monday by Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul who is presiding over Anwar's case.

-- BERNAMA
KLS AHH RM